

Office of Environmental Services

Five Year Strategic Plan

July, 2008 – June, 2013

Agency Number: 13-852
Program: Environmental Services Program
Program Authorization: La. R.S. 30:2011(C)(1)(d)

Vision

The vision of the Environmental Services Program is to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana have a healthy and clean environment to live and work in for present and future generations.

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Services Program is to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana have a clean and healthy environment to live and work in for present and future generations. This will be accomplished by regulating pollution sources through permitting activities which are consistent with laws and regulations, by providing interface between the department and its customers, by providing improved public participation, by providing environmental assistance to small businesses, by providing environmental information to the public, and by working with communities and industries to resolve issues. The permitting activity will provide single entry/contact point for permitting, including a multimedia team approach; providing technical guidance for permit applications; improved permit tracking; and the ability to focus on applications with the highest potential for environmental impact.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Environmental Services Program is to make efficient use of available resources to conduct operations that consider both environmental impact and economic impact. Education and other outreach methods will be utilized to disseminate information and promote public awareness. Decisions will be based on sound, comprehensive information that is scientifically and economically supported. Customer assistance will be provided to the regulated community in the application process. The permit process will assure that facilities have the information they need to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations.

Goal

To maintain and enhance the environment of Louisiana through permitting and licensing, by conducting a multimedia small business assistance program, and by sponsoring and supporting programs that increase public awareness of Louisiana's environmental issues.

Objective 1:

The Environmental Services Program, through the permits activity, will process 87% of incoming permit applications within mandated timeframes in July 1, 2008 and increasing to 90% by June 30, 2013.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide high quality technical evaluations/draft permits for all media permit activities, in a timely manner.
- 1.2 Establish and implement interagency coastal permits process.
- 1.3 Maintain program integrity by continuing to meet all applicable state and federal mandates to ensure that all facility operations are protective of human health and the environment.
- 1.4 Provide requisite permitting data for appropriate EPA databases.
- 1.5 Continue to utilize strategies to maintain the number of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits that are identified as “current”.
- 1.6 Continue to issue major and minor Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, including Stormwater General Permits.
- 1.7 Continue to issue major air permits that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act.
- 1.8 Continually review public participation procedures to address concerns of the general public.

Performance Indicator

Outcome: Percent of applications received for new facilities and substantial modifications where final action has been taken.

Outcome: Number of Air Quality Permitting Actions Issued in the Current Fiscal Year
Number of Solid Waste Permitting Actions, Including Major Modifications, Issued in the Current Year
Number of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, or Disposal Permits or Major Modifications Issued in the Current Fiscal Year
Number of individual Water Quality Permits or Major or Minor Modifications Issued in the Current Fiscal Year (including master generals)
Number of general Water Quality Permits including stormwater Issued in the Current Fiscal Year

Objective 2:

The Environmental Services Program, through the environmental assistance activity, will conduct a multimedia awareness and assistance program to improve voluntary stakeholder participation and small business compliance with environmental regulations by responding to 96% of requests for information and/or assistance within 90 days between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Increase public awareness of environmental issues by sponsoring, supporting, or conducting and/or participating in multi-media events addressing water and air quality, solid and hazardous waste, groundwater, wetlands and water treatment issues.
- 2.2 Arrange pre-permit meetings to inform applicant of requirements and available support for new or expanding businesses requiring DEQ permits.
- 2.3 Maintain a Small Community Compliance Assistance Program.
- 2.4 Provide technical assistance regarding pollution prevention to small and medium-sized companies (Louisiana Small Business Assistance Program).
- 2.5 Provide citizens facing potential environmental hazards with opportunities to learn more about environmental issues and their solutions through facilitated interaction with industry representatives.
- 2.6 Provide environmental awareness and education efforts in cooperation with local schools, organizations, and governmental entities regarding litter reduction, recycling programs and re-use opportunities.
- 2.7 Encourage and support efforts by government subdivisions to recycle and increase the number of government subdivisions reporting recycling programs to 39 by 2010 by providing training and assistance on use of reporting and measurement devices.

Performance Indicators

Efficiency: Percent of responses to requests for compliance assistance within 90 days.

Percent of responses to requests for information from stakeholders and the regulated community through brochures, seminars, lectures, and the media.

Outcome Number of government subdivisions reporting recycling programs